

IURC News

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Commission initiates inquiry into adequacy, reliability of Indiana's electric service

Proceeding will provide an updated, long-term analysis of state's energy needs

Commission (IURC) today initiated an inquiry into the adequacy and reliability of electric service to the state's electric customers.

In Cause No. 41736, the IURC will facilitate an environment where regulators, consumers, industry groups, and utilities forge a partnership to work together to address electric reliability and the state's long-term energy needs. Through this coordinated leadership, the commission will raise public awareness of the complex issues surrounding reliable electric service and develop policies and initiatives that maintain and promote adequate and reliable electric service

While Hoosiers have historically enjoyed some of the safest and least expensive electric service in the country, events during the last two summers and recent and anticipated changes in energy policy have affected Indiana's electric industry.

During the last two summers, electric utilities in the Midwest set new records for peak demand as the region experienced prolonged periods of extreme heat and high humidity. These extreme conditions resulted in many Indiana utilities calling for voluntary conservation while utilities in surrounding states implemented rolling blackouts to protect the integrity of the electric grid.

In order to address these immediate electric needs, many Indiana electric utilities have entered into interruptible contracts, filed special tariffs, and implemented energy conservation programs to reduce customer load during peak demand periods. While the IURC encourages and applauds these innovative ideas, given the changes taking place in the electric industry and the wholesale electric market, it is appropriate for an updated analysis of Indiana's long-term energy needs.

The IURC will hold a prehearing conference at 1:00 p.m. on May 30, to establish a procedural schedule for this proceeding.

Five investor-owned utilities, 41 rural electric cooperatives, and an assortment of municipally-owned utilities serve Indiana's 2.7 million residential, commercial, and industrial electric consumers.